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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3311

August 17, 2023

Asheville City Council
70 Court Plaza
Asheville, NC 28802

Dear Councilmembers,

On behalf of the tens of thousands of City of Asheville water consumers impacted by the water outage in December 2022, I strongly urge you to adopt and implement the Independent Review Committee's recommendations. Please also provide quarterly progress updates until these recommendations are achieved, then semi-annually afterward.

You are to be commended for quickly asking for this review. However, nearly eight months have now passed, and another winter will be upon us soon. In addition to cold winter temperatures possibly causing more water outages, any accident that could result in a shutdown of the Mills River plant could happen at any time, rendering time of the greatest essence in this situation.

Understanding that financial resources are not unlimited and many of these recommendations must be backed by additional investment, I hope we can agree that fewer priorities rank higher than for a local government to provide safe and reliable water to its citizens. Please have the courage to prioritize the needs in a manner to meet this critical responsibility.

My office stands ready to assist in any way possible to help ensure that the citizens and businesses we mutually represent enjoy the benefit of this most basic resource, a reliable and resilient water system.

Respectfully,

Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress